VEFAMUN'26
H-UNSC
STUDY GUIDE

The Korean War (1950-1953)

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1. Letter from Secretary-General

Most Special Participants of VefaMUN'26,

As the Secretary-General of VefaMUN'26, I'm absolutely thrilled to welcome you to our 6th edition, happening on March 28-29 right here at Vefa High School.

My journey with this club began on day one of my high school career, and it's been a true passion ever since. I started as an Academy Team Member, climbed to Head of Academy, served as the Deputy Secretary-General, and now stand proudly as Secretary-General. Over these years, I've given my all to this club and this family. We've faced endless obstacles together, and turned "an idea that became reality" from our slogan into our living truth. Every challenge we overcame only made us stronger, more united, and ready to deliver something extraordinary.

Our academy and organisation teams have poured relentless effort into this conference. We tackled every hurdle with grit and designed eight dynamic committees to challenge your minds, spark debates, and create unforgettable memories. From crisis simulations to deep policy dives, each one is crafted for maximum engagement and growth.

But here's the heart of it: none of this shines without you, our incredible participants. Your energy, ideas, and passion are what breathe life into VefaMUN. So come join our family, dive into action, and let's make this edition legendary together.

Best Wishes,

Melis Usanır

Secretary-General of VefaMUN'26

2.   Letter from Co-Under-Secretaries-General

Most Respected Delegates,

I am more than pleased to welcome you all to the Historical United Nations Security Nations Committee, with the topic being the Korean War (1950-1953). Our aim with this agenda is to let you get to the deepest points of the conflict between South and North Korea, as well as to make you witness one of the most significant and effective moments of the early Cold War era. During such serious events, those who will shape the future must be the ones to leave their comfort zone and limits.

What this committee offers you is much more than confrontation between two parties; it is an issue that concerns and has the potential of shaping international relationships and order. Besides a rivalry between two authorities, it was symbolised as the competition of different ideologies. This conflict was one of the primary focuses at the time and led to significant changes in military formats.

What you are expected to do is to search for answers that will help you to come to a final decision on the matter. While doing that, you must not forget to reflect the actual reality, such as politics, strategies, and diplomatic conditions of 1950-1953. Always keep in mind that this progress is not supposed to be either effortless or simple. Yet with the right cooperation and technique, nothing is impossible. Another crucial thing that should never be ignored is that your actions should be dependent on your country's historical context and position. I hope to see each one of you volunteering to take part in this process, as well as being cautious not to damage the limits of respect.

As your Under Secretary General, I look forward to seeing you at the conference, and I have no doubt you will do your best to resolve the conflict. It is my greatest happiness to tell you that this is going to be my first Under-Secretary-General experience, and I promise to do my best to make you take pleasure in each second.

For my final words, I would like to thank those who were always by my side through my thick&thin and helped me along this journey while making it possible for me to come to this position. My special thanks to my closest friends Hamza, Nisa, Eda, and dear also our amazing secretariat. Plus, last but not least, my amazing Co-Under-Secretary-General, Melody, for her efforts and for being supportive no matter what.

Wish you a pleasant time during your preparation.

By the way, if you have anything to ask or any requests, do not be shy to send me an email!

boraybal@gmail.com

Best regards,

Boray Bal

3.   Letter from Co-Under-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the Historical United Nations Security Council for this session addressing the Korean War (1950–1953). This agenda invites you to step into one of the most critical moments of early Cold War history, when the principles of collective security under the United Nations Charter were tested under immense geopolitical pressure.

The Korean War was not merely a regional conflict on the Korean Peninsula; it was a defining confrontation that shaped the global balance of power for decades to come. It challenged the authority of the United Nations, deepened ideological divisions between major powers, and established precedents for international military intervention. As members of the Historical Security Council, you are not observing history; you are entering it. Your decisions must reflect the political realities, strategic interests, and diplomatic constraints of the 1950–1953 period.

In this committee, you will confront difficult questions: How should the international community respond to armed aggression? How should collective security be implemented without escalating global conflict? How can peace be pursued when ideological rivalry shapes every diplomatic exchange? These are not simple questions, and there are no simple answers. Your task is to analyze your country's position carefully, understand the historical context thoroughly, and negotiate with both caution and conviction.

I strongly encourage each delegate to move beyond surface-level understanding and engage deeply with the legal, political, and military dimensions of this agenda. Effective diplomacy in this committee will require historical accuracy, strategic thinking, and respectful collaboration. The quality of debate will depend not only on your preparation but also on your willingness to think critically and negotiate constructively.

I have full confidence that this committee will demonstrate intellectual rigor, professionalism, and thoughtful leadership. I look forward to witnessing the depth of discussion and the creativity of the solutions you propose.

And for my final words, I would like to thank my Co-Under-Secretary-General, Boray Bal. I wish you all the best in your preparation and in the sessions ahead.

And if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email.

zafermelody@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Melody Zafer

4. Introduction to the Committee: Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC)

The Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC) is a specialised simulation of the UN Security Council that operates within a specific historical time frame. Unlike the traditional committees that deal with current worldwide problems, the H-UNSC places delegates in the geopolitical realities, alliances, and restrictions of a particular historical moment. The delegates are required to behave strictly as per the political environment, the information available, and the diplomatic ties that existed then. It is the United Nations Security Council that has the power to deal with or not with the new international crises. This Council is able to investigate issues, demand a cease-fire, impose sanctions, approve peacekeeping forces, and allow collective military action. These are binding on all member states, though some governments resent them.

The Historical Security Council was set on the Korean War. It represents the first Cold War confrontation and was marked by ideological differences between the US and the USSR. Students need to recognize that in 1950, the Council operated in an environment of increasing geopolitical competition, conflicting ideological systems, and developing proxy wars. An essential feature of the Security Council is the presence of its five permanent members, which include the United States, the Soviet Union (now known as the Russian Federation), the United Kingdom, France, and China. During the period of the Korean War, the Republic of China (Taiwan) represented China as opposed to the People's Republic of China. This distinction is vital when examining voting trends and diplomatic ties within the Council at the time.

In June 1950, following the outbreak of conflict on the Korean Peninsula, the Security Council adopted several crucial resolutions, including Resolution 82, which condemned the North Korean invasion, and Resolution 83, which urged member states to provide military assistance to South Korea. Resolution 84 later on created the United Nations Command (UNC), thus making this one of the early cases in which the UN authorized collective military action under its control.

The Historical Security Council expects delegates to consider these decisions based on their historical context rather than through modern-day perspectives. Delegates need to evaluate the strategic assessments of their designated state, the constraints set by Cold War rivalries, and the evolving interpretation of collective security under the UN Charter.

This committee urges participants not only to grasp the historical particulars of the Korean War but also to assess how the Security Council wielded its power, how great power dynamics affected decision-making, and how the collective security arrangement was put to the test during one of the first significant conflicts of the Cold War. In this agenda item,

representatives are expected to analyze the function of the Security Council in dealing with military aggression, superpower rivalry, and its role in the international legal framework with regard to intervention and sovereignty.

5. Introduction to the Agenda Item: The Korean War (1950-1953)

The Korean War (1950–53) was a major episode in the early years of the Cold War. It was the first major crisis that came before the United Nations Security Council in the era of the UN Charter. Yet the war did not break out in Korea suddenly in June 1950. Rather, it was the culmination of a whole series of events arising from a complex history that dated back decades. This involved Japanese colonial rule, wartime planning among the allies during the Second World War, and the Cold War of ideological and political struggle that emerged in the post-1945 period. On 15 August 1945, Japan surrendered. The partition of the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel into Soviet and US occupation zones was designed to assist in preparing the local population for free elections some months ahead in order to decide on the future of the Korean peninsula and on the kind of political constitution it should have. The temporary separation of the peninsula by the division of it into two occupation zones turned out to be permanent.

The reason for this lay at the heart of the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. The two Cold War rivals had different attitudes towards both the political and the economic reconstruction of occupied Korea. They disagreed not only over how Korea would be organised after liberation but also disagreed over whether Korea would be unified or divided. The US and Soviet bloc were keen to establish local governing institutions in the occupied zones, but they were also intent upon preparing Korea for a constitutional election to decide once and for all upon the political future of the whole peninsula. Hence, in December 1948, each country organised its own elections to create a national legislative body.

The North Korean government established itself as the sole legitimate government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the US and the South Korean government established themselves as the legitimate government of the Republic of Korea in the south. The militarisation of the border occurred with a series of clashes between the troops of the two countries along the 38th parallel. Also, the regime in the south was threatened by a rebellion against its rule, while there were attempts by the North Korean regime to incite rebellion in the south. It was then that each side attempted to use armed force to achieve the reunification of the peninsula. This meant a full-scale war over the whole Korean peninsula, a war which was also part of the Cold War, a struggle between two ideologies and a power rivalry.

On 25 June 1950, North Korean troops moved south of the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea in a war of all-out attack. In a very short period, they occupied a large part of the country, and the world was faced with an international crisis of the first order. In response to a UNSC resolution which condemned North Korean actions and requested member states to assist South Korea, the UN Temporary Commission on Korea and the US were at the centre stage of the formation of the UN Command, which was to fight under the command of the US General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur.

The North Koreans advanced rapidly but were halted and then repulsed at the Busan Perimeter and during the assault of Inchon. The UN and South Korean forces then began a push far beyond the 38th parallel. Chinese troops entered the war in late October and pushed the UN/Ko forces back to the area of Seoul, and a war of attrition developed. By 1951, the war had largely reduced itself to a war of attrition near the 38th parallel. The Armistice negotiations that commenced in July 1951 required numerous attacks on all sides as well as heavy casualties before the Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953, which established the Military Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which currently divides North and South Korea.

No Peace Treaty was signed, and the war therefore came to a close by way of a ceasefire rather than through a Peace Treaty. The Historical United Nations Security Council will have to consider how the UN Security Council applied the principles of collective security as enshrined in the UN Charter; the impact of the Cold War on the decision-making of the UNSC; and the constraints in the Charter on UNSC members in their attempt to bring about peace in a very difficult and contested situation. The Korean War set a precedent for future proxy wars around the world and also for the principle of UN-authorised military action. The security issues that arose from the war have also endured and are therefore relevant to the work of the Historical United Nations Security Council.

6.   Key Terminology

38th Parallel: The latitude line chosen in 1945 to divide Korea into Soviet (North) and U.S. (South) occupation zones; it became the main dividing line at the start of the war.

Armistice: A formal military agreement that stops active fighting without legally ending the war. The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Peace Treaty: A formal agreement that legally ends a war and establishes official peace between the parties.

Military Demarcation Line (MDL): The boundary established in 1953 based on the final positions of forces at the end of the fighting.

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ): A 4-kilometer-wide buffer zone created along the MDL to physically separate opposing forces and reduce the risk of renewed conflict.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC): The UN organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security; it authorized collective action in response to the invasion of South Korea.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions 82, 83, and 84 (1950):

> **Resolution 82:** Condemned North Korea's invasion.

> **Resolution 83:** Recommended military assistance to South Korea.

> **Resolution 84:** Established the United Nations Command under U.S. leadership.

United Nations Command (UNC): The unified multinational military force created under UN authority to defend South Korea.

Collective Security: The principle that aggression against one state can trigger a coordinated international response to maintain peace.

Proxy War: A conflict in which major powers support opposing sides without directly fighting each other; the Korean War reflected early Cold War rivalry between communist and capitalist blocs.

Containment Policy: The U.S. Cold War strategy aimed at preventing the spread of communism to new regions.

Korean People's Army (KPA): The armed forces of North Korea.

Republic of Korea Army (ROKA): The armed forces of South Korea.

Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA): The name used by Chinese forces that intervened in the war in October 1950 to support North Korea.

Busan (Pusan) Perimeter: The defensive line established in southeastern Korea in August 1950 that prevented the complete defeat of UN and South Korean forces.

Incheon Landing: The September 1950 amphibious operation by UN forces that reversed North Korea's early advances and shifted the momentum of the war.

Yalu River: The river forming the border between China and North Korea; UN forces approaching it triggered Chinese intervention.

Stalemate: A phase of the war (from mid-1951 onward) in which neither side could achieve a decisive victory, leading to prolonged negotiations.

Trusteeship: The proposed temporary international administration of Korea after World War II, before full independence, which contributed to political tensions and division.

7.   Background of the Conflict

7.1.   Post World War II: Division of Korea

The Joseon Dynasty was a dynastic kingdom of Korea that was founded by Taejo of Joseon in July 1392 and lasted for 505 years. In October 1897, it was replaced by the Korean Empire, which was a Korean monarchical state. The empire lasted until the Japanese annexation of Korea in August 1910. This annexation was a result of Japan becoming the one and only regional power after defeating China in the 1894-1895 First Sino-Japanese War and defeating the Russian Empire in the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War. After those victories, Japan acted quickly to annex Korea. At first The Japan-Korea Treaty of 1905 made Korea a protectorate of Japan. In 1907, Japan forced Emperor Gojong, the emperor of Korea, to abdicate. Afterwards, with the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910, Japan officially colonized Korea.

In January 1919, Emperor Gojong suddenly died, which led to theories that he had been poisoned by Japanese agents. This situation flared up Anti-Japanese feelings among Koreans. Korean students in Tokyo issued the February 8 Declaration of Independence. Besides, Koreans in Seoul issued their own declaration of independence. On the 1st of March, a series of protests against Japanese colonial rule named as the March First Movement, was held all over Korea. However, they were violently suppressed by Japan. After the suppression of the March First Movement, some Koreans left the Korean peninsula and gathered in Shanghai. They founded a government-in-exile named the Korean Provisional Government (KPG), which was supported by China.

During World War II, on 1st of December 1943, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of China broadcast the Cairo Declaration on the radio. The Declaration stated that "Japan will be expelled from all territories which they have taken by violence and greed "and also "in due course Korea shall become free and independent".

At the Tehran Conference in 1943, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America agreed that after being liberated from Japanese colonial rule, Korea should be run under an international trusteeship before becoming fully independent.

At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt, president of the United States, wanted the Soviets to enter the Pacific War against Japan with the Allies. Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Soviet Union, promised to join the Allies in the Pacific War, and on 8 August 1945, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan.

On the 10th of August, forces of the Soviet Union entered northern Korea. The same day, Franklin Roosevelt proposed to Joseph Stalin to divide the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel north, and Stalin agreed.

Japan's colonization of Korea lasted until Japan's surrender in World War II in 1945. On the 15th of August, 1945, Emperor Hirohito, the emperor of Japan, gave a radio broadcast of surrender. Announcing that the Japanese government had accepted the Potsdam Declaration, which demanded the surrender of the Japanese military at the end of World War II. He referred to the Hiroshima bombing and Nagasaki bombing as the reasons for the surrender.

Soviet forces rapidly took over the northeast of the country, and by 24 August, they secured most of the major cities in the north, including Pyongyang, which is the second largest city in the Korean Peninsula. They were generally well received by the Koreans.

On the 2nd of September, 1945, representatives from Japan and the Allies signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, which formalized the surrender of Japan. After the surrender of Japan, Korea was liberated from Japanese colonial rule. But Korea didn't become fully independent since Korea's future was already decided. To make the agreement between Roosevelt and Stalin about dividing the Korean Peninsula official, it was added to the General Order No 1, which was about Japan's surrender.

7.2.   Establishment of Three Administration Bodies

After Japan's surrender, Japanese forces left the Korean peninsula with no government. On 15 August 1945, Lyuh Woon-hyung, who is a Korean independence activist, created The Committee for the Preparation of Korean Independence(CPKI). CPKI organized government councils named as People's Committees in many Korean cities and towns to restore order in the country.

7.2.1.   Soviet Civil Administration

On 24 August, when Soviet forces entered Pyongyang, they found a local branch of the CPKI operating under the leadership of veteran nationalist Cho Man-sik. The Soviet Army allowed these People's Committees.

On 3 October 1945, the Soviet Army established its occupation authority known as the Soviet Civil Administration. In January 1946, Colonel-General Terentii Shtykov took charge of the administration.

In February 1946, a provisional government named the Provisional People's Committees of North Korea was founded under the leadership of Kim Il-sung. The provisional government carried out many reforms, such as land reforms and the nationalization of key industries.

7.2.2. United States Army Military Government in Korea

On 6 September 1945, CPKI activists established the People's Republic of Korea (PRK), which was a short-lived provisional government in Seoul.

On 7 September 1945, General Douglas MacArthur issued Proclamation No 1 to the people of Korea, declaring that the U.S. military would control the south of the 38th parallel and English would be the official language during military control.

On 8 September 1945, U.S. forces landed at Incheon and established a military government named the United States Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK). U.S. Lieutenant General John R. Hodge became the head of the USAMGIK. KPG, which was in China, sent a delegation to John R. Hodge, but he refused to meet with them. Similarly, on 8 December, Hodge banned strikes and on 12 December outlawed the newly formed PRK and its People's Committees.

In September 1946, the Communist Party of Korea initiated a General Strike. This strike started among railway workers in Busan, but it spread to other industries by 24 September, and more than 250.000 workers joined in the strike. The USAMGIK organised military operations to suppress the strikers and also encouraged right-wing anti-communist groups. On 1 October, in a strike protest in Daegu, a worker was killed by police. In the following days, strikes developed into the Autumn Uprising, which was a peasant uprising. USAMGIK declared martial law and killed an unknown number of people.

7.2.3. US-Soviet Joint Commission

In December 1945, at the Moscow Conference, the Allies agreed that the Soviet Union, the United States, the Republic of China, and Great Britain would take part in a trusteeship over Korea for up to five years until their full independence.

A US-Soviet Joint Commission met in 1946 and 1947 to create a unified administration, but failed due to increasing Cold War enmity and Korea's opposition to the trusteeship. In the meantime, the division between the two zones deepened because of the difference in policy between the occupying powers. In May 1946, it was made illegal to cross the 38th parallel without a permit.

In September 1947, the U.S. brought the problem to the UN after the failure of the joint commission. The Soviet Union opposed UN involvement. In November 1947 UN passed a resolution declaring that free elections should be held in both zones, foreign forces should be withdrawn, and a UN commission for Korea, named the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK), should be established. The Soviet Union boycotted the resolution and the voting, arguing that the UN couldn't assure fair elections. So it was decided to hold UN-supervised elections only in the South. But this decision wasn't popular

among many Koreans who weren't supporting the permanent division of the Korean peninsula. In February 1948, general strikes to protest the decision started, and in April, Jeju islanders started a full-scale insurgency. By May, South Korean forces suppressed the insurgency.

On 10 May 1948, a general election was held in the south. On 15 August, Syngman Rhee became the first president of the 'Republic of Korea' that formally took power from USAMGIK. On 25 August, parliamentary elections were held in the north. On 9 September 1948, Kim Il-sung became the first prime minister of the 'Democratic People's Republic of Korea' in the north. Soviet forces withdrew in 1948, and U.S. forces withdrew in 1949. Each government claimed to be the only lawful government of the Korean peninsula.

7.3.   Ideological Statements Regarding Early Cold War Tensions

In the aftermath of World War II, there was a period of international geopolitical antagonism between the United States and the Soviet Union called the Cold War until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Korean War is one of the first tensions of the Early Cold War. There was no direct fighting between the two superpowers; however, they supported opposing sides in the regional conflicts, such as the Korean War.

The most important reason for the Cold War is the ideological differences between the two countries. The United States is a capitalist country, and on the other hand, the Soviet Union is a communist country. One of the key differences between these two ideologies is the ownership of the means of production. Capitalism promotes the private ownership of the means of production, but communism promotes the collective ownership of the means of production. Also, capitalism relies on a market-based economic system, while in communism economy relies on central planning by the government. Furthermore, class distinctions in society are acceptable in capitalism, but communism seeks to ensure a classless society. So clearly, these two ideologies are totally different from each other.

Both of the superpowers believed that their ideology was the only guarantee of peace in the world and tried to spread their ideology to other countries. But their ideological differences led to divisions in the world. To prevent communism's expansion in Western Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO) was established in 1949 by the United States and other countries in the Western Bloc. In reaction to the establishment of NATO, the Warsaw Pact was established in 1955 by the Soviet Union and other countries in the Eastern Bloc. These key events deepened the division between the West and the east in the period of Cold War.

8. Principal Phases Of The Korean War

8.1. Outbreak of the War and Initial North Korean Advances

Kim Il-sung believed that the insurgents, such as the Jejuislanders' uprising, weakened the Republic of Korea Army(ROKA) and that a North Korean invasion would be welcomed by most of the South Korean population. He began seeking support from Stalin for an invasion, and in March 1949, he traveled to Moscow to persuade him. Stalin didn't believe that it was the right time since U.S. forces were still in South Korea and the Chinese Civil War was still going on.

In the Chinese Civil War, which was between the communist and the nationalist groups, North Korea supported the communists by providing materiel and manpower. On 1 October 1949, the communist leader Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China, and he promised to support North Korea in a potential war against South Korea.

In the spring of 1949, a North Korea-backed insurgency broke out in South Korea. While the insurgency was going on in the 38th parallel, border clashes started between the ROKA and the Korean People's Army(KPA). The ROKA forces completely routed the KPA forces, and the border clashes decreased by the start of 1950. Meanwhile, the ROKA launched assaults on the insurgents, and by March 1950 insurgents had mostly subsided.

By spring 1950, Stalin believed that it was the right time for an invasion because U.S. forces had withdrawn from South Korea, Mao Zedong had established the new Chinese government, and the Soviets conducted their first successful nuclear test. Also, as the United States hadn't intervened in the Chinese Civil War to stop the communists, Stalin guessed that they also wouldn't intervene in Korea since Korea had less strategic significance than China.

In April 1950, Stalin permitted Kim Il-sung to attack South Korea under the condition that Mao Zedong backed the war. He also made it clear that Soviet forces wouldn't engage in the conflict to avoid a direct war with the United States. Mao Zedong agreed to send reinforcements if needed. Soviet generals who had combat experience from World War II were sent to North Korea as the Soviet Advisory Group, and they completed the attack plans by May.

On 25 June 1950, the KPA crossed the 38th parallel. The attack took the international community and South Korea by surprise. The KPA had a combined arms force including tanks supported by heavy artillery, but the ROKA had no tanks, anti-tank weapons, or heavy artillery. The KPA advanced rapidly through most of the peninsula.

On 27 June, Syngman Rhee evacuated Seoul. On 28 June, the ROKA blew up the Hangang Bridge across the Han River to delay the KPA's advance toward the Southern part of Seoul, but Seoul fell that same day.

8.2. UN and U.S. Intervention and Counteroffensive

On 25 June 1950, the UNSC passed Resolution 82 and condemned the North Korean invasion of South Korea. On 27 June, the UNSC passed Resolution 83 and recommended that the member states provide military assistance to South Korea. The Soviet Union couldn't veto these resolutions because they were boycotting UNSC meetings since January 1950, protesting Taiwan's occupation of China's permanent seat.

The U.S. Seventh Fleet dispatched Task Force 77, and the British Far East Fleet dispatched several ships to provide air and naval support. Although the navies blockaded North Korea and launched air strikes to delay the KPA, these efforts didn't stop the KPA. Harry S. Truman, the president of the United States, ordered ground troops into the country to supplement the air support. The closest unit was the 24th Infantry Division of the Eighth United States Army, which was in Japan. The first units of the 24th Infantry Division, known as Task Force Smith, left Japan on 30 June. The forces were poorly equipped and understrength.

On July 1, Task Force Smith arrived in South Korea and established a headquarters in Taejon. Their mission was to move as far north as possible and begin engaging with the KPA to stop their advance until the rest of the 24th Infantry Division could be moved into South Korea to reinforce it.

On 5 July, Task Force Smith attacked the KPA at Osan, but the KPA defeated Task Force Smith. The Battle of Osan was the first conflict between the United States and the KPA. It showed that American forces were weak and unprepared to fight the better-trained KPA forces.

During the battle 24th Infantry Division's 34th Infantry Regiment arrived in Pyeongtaek. Though they were defeated, Task Force Smith accomplished its mission of delaying the KPA forces from advancing for several hours. However, KPA similarly defeated the 34th Infantry Regiment on 6 July in the Battle of Pyeongtaek.

On 7 July, the UNSC passed Resolution 84 and authorized the formation of the United Nations Command (UNC) to provide military support for South Korea.

Within a week, the 24th Infantry Division fought in many engagements to delay the KPA, but the result was always the same, and they had been pushed back to Taejon.

The Battle of Taejon started on 14 July and ended on 20 July with the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Taejon. In this war KPA captured William F. Dean, who was the commander of the 24th Infantry Division, and he remained a prisoner of the North Koreans until the end of the Korean War. By August, KPA pushed back the ROKA and Eighth United States Army southwards.

On 1 August, the Eighth Army issued an operational directive to all UNC ground forces in Korea for their planned withdrawal to the east of the Naktong River. The plan was to

establish a main line of resistance behind what was to be called the Busan Perimeter, and the aim was to delay the KPA while UNC built up its forces and launched a counteroffensive.

On 4 August, the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter started, which was one of the first major engagements of the Korean War. For six weeks, the UNC forces fought off repeated KPA attacks as they were engaged around the cities of Taegu, Masan, and Pohang and the Naktong River. KPA forces were forced to hide in tunnels by day and move only at night due to the United States Air Force (USAF)'s interruption of KPA logistics. The USAF destroyed logistics depots, refineries, and harbors to deny military equipment and supplies to the KPA while the U.S. Navy aircraft attacked transport hubs. Therefore, the KPA forces were undermanned and poorly supplied, unlike the UNC forces, which had naval and air support.

To relieve the Pusan Perimeter on 15 September, U.S. forces carried out a surprising amphibious landing at Incheon, and Incheon was secured on 19 September after being bombed by UN forces. On 16 September, KPA forces were defeated when the Eighth Army broke out from the Pusan Perimeter. By 22 September, the KPA forces around the Perimeter were in full retreat, and on 23 September, Eighth Army and ROKA forces began a counteroffensive to pursue the KPA. However, because UNC forces had concentrated on recapturing Seoul, the remaining 30.000 KPA soldiers escaped to North Korea.

On 25 September, UNC forces recaptured Seoul after the Second Battle of Seoul, and all of South Korea was recaptured on 28 September.

On 7 October, with UN authorization, UNC forces passed the 38th parallel. The Eighth Army captured North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, on 19 October after the Battle of Pyongyang.

8.3.   Chinese Entry into the War and Reversal of Momentum

On 3 October, China warned the United States through its embassy in India that it would intervene in the war if UNC forces crossed the 38th parallel. But the United States didn't respond as President Truman considered it a bluff.

On 19 October Northeast Border Defense Army(NEBDA) crossed the Yalu River, which is a river on the border between China and North Korea, under the name Chinese People's Volunteer Army(PVA).

On 25 October, the PVA launched the First Phase Offensive, attacking ROKA and UNC forces near the Chinese-Korean border. PVA defeated ROKA and UNC forces in the Battle of Onjong and the Battle of Unsan. After these victories, the PVA forces pushed the ROKA and UNC forces back across the Ch'ongch'on River. But food and ammunition shortages soon forced the PVA to disengage on 5 November.

On 25 November, on the western front, the PVA launched the Second Phase Offensive, attacking the ROKA and UNC forces along the Ch'ongch'on River. The Battle of the

Ch'ongch'on River ended with the PVA's victory while the Eighth Army suffered heavy losses.

On 27 November, on the eastern front, the PVA 9th Army Group initiated the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. The UNC forces did a successful tactical withdrawal, and on 11 December, they established a defensive perimeter at Hungnam, which is a port city. About 193 shiploads of UN forces and materiel were evacuated from Hungnam to Pusan by 24 December.

In early December, UN forces evacuated Pyongyang, and in mid-December, retreated across the 38th parallel.

On 31 December, PVA and KPA launched the Third Phase Offensive, attacking ROKA forces along the 38th parallel and breaching UNC defenses at the Imjin River, Hantan River, Gapyeong, and Chuncheon in the process.

On 3 January 1951, the Eighth Army evacuated Seoul to prevent the PVA forces from defeating the defenders. On 4 January, PVA and KPA forces captured Seoul for the second time. The PVA had outrun its logistics capability and was unable to advance beyond Seoul as food, materiel, and ammunition were carried nightly from the Yalu River to the battle lines.

On 25 January, General Matthew Ridgway, who became the commander of the Eighth Army after the previous commander's death, ordered a reconnaissance-in-force which became Operation Thunderbolt. UNC forces gained a victory, reaching the Han River and capturing Wonju in Operation Thunderbolt.

On 11 February, PVA counterattacked with the Fourth Phase Offensive and achieved victory at the Battle of Hoengseong, driving back two divisions of the US X Corps to Chipyong-ni. But the offensive was blunted by the U.S. IX Corps in Chipyong-ni, and UNC forces achieved a victory in the Battle of Chipyong-ni.

On 20 February, the Eighth Army carried out Operation Killer, which concluded with the U.S. I Corps re-occupying the territory south of the Han River and IX Corps capturing Hoengseong.

On 7 March, the Eighth Army attacked with Operation Ripper, and on 14 March PVA and KPA evacuated Seoul and retreated northward. On 15 March, US forces captured Hongcheon, and on 22 March, secured Chuncheon.

On 23 March, the Eighth Army carried out Operation Courageous and Operation Tomahawk, aiming to trap PVA forces between Kaesong and Seoul. After these operations, UN forces reached the Kansas Line, which is in the north of the 38th parallel.

On 22 April, the PVA counterattacked with the Fifth Phase Offensive, but they were halted by UNC forces at the No-Name Line, which is in the North of Seoul by 30 April.

On 15 May, the PVA and KPA commenced the second offensive of the Fifth Phase Offensive and attacked the ROKA and U.S. X Corps in the east near the Soyang River. Although they were successful at first on 20 May, they began to withdraw after suffering heavy losses. The UNC forces launched a counteroffensive named the UN May-July Counteroffensive, and they were halted and repulsed by 22 May. During the counteroffensive, the UNC forces captured land up to about 10 km north of the 38th parallel. Most of the forces stopped at the Kansas Line, and a minority stopped at the Wyoming Line.

8.4. Stalemate and Armistice Negotiations

The halt at the Kansas Line and the stand down of the offensive actions commenced the stalemate that lasted until the armistice in 1953. For the rest of the war, the UNC/ROKA forces and PVA/KPA forces fought but exchanged little territory.

On 10 July 1951, the armistice negotiations started in Kaesong, which is a North Korean city near the South Korean border, but they were later held in Panmunjom. After two weeks on 26 July, a five-part agenda was agreed upon. After the agenda was decided, talks proceeded slowly, and the Korean Armistice Agreement is one of the longest negotiated armistices in history.

On 27 July 1953, military commanders from the United States, which was representing the UNC, the KPA, and the PVA, signed the Korean Armistice Agreement. South Korea never signed the Armistice Agreement due to Syngman Rhee's refusal to accept having failed to unify Korea by force. The Armistice Agreement is only a ceasefire between military forces rather than an agreement between governments to normalize relations.

The Armistice Agreement created a Military Demarcation Line (MDL) at the last line of contact between the opposing forces. To separate combat forces, both sides withdrew two kilometers from the MDL to form a four-kilometer demilitarized zone, which runs 241 kilometers across the width of the Korean peninsula. Additionally, the Armistice Agreement established three commissions. The Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission handled the matter of the repatriation of prisoners of war, which was a problematic point at the beginning of the armistice negotiations. The Military Armistice Commission(MAC) was established to supervise the implementation of the Armistice Agreement and to settle through negotiations any violations of the Armistice Agreement. The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission was established to conduct compliance inspections and investigations of Armistice Agreement violations outside the MDL and to report its findings to the MAC.

With the signing of the Armistice Agreement, the war ended, and despite the three-year war, the international border remained at a similar location as before the war.

9.   The Effects of the War

At the end of World War 2, Korea (which was formerly controlled by Japanese power) achieved its ideal of liberation. It was divided along the 38th parallel, leaving the capital city, Seoul, to the southern division. Later on, these two states got dragged into the control of outer powers, with North Korea being occupied by the Soviet Union and South Korea being occupied by the United States.

After that, in 1948, two separate states were established:

North Korea (DPRK) - under Kim Il-sung
South Korea (ROK) - under Syngman Rhee

Both these governments began to claim their legitimacy over the entire peninsula. As time passed, obviously tensions were rising along with the ambition of having the upper hand. The division reflected broader Cold War tensions between communism and capitalism.

On 25 June 1950, forces from North Korea started invading South Korea. This action was condemned by the United Nations, and a multinational force led by the United States was formed. From this point, a war that would shape the map of Korea started, and many other countries joined in along these two oppositions. Such a war with so much participation shook not only the region but all those nations that were involved. Even though the actual conflict itself lasted 3 years, the effects and causes were indisputably huge. Considering the deaths and the events that took place during it, the Korean War is not to be underestimated.

9.1.   Humanitarian and Civilian Impact

The Korean War was not only a confrontation between South and North Korea alongside their international allies, but it was also amongst the most devastating humanitarian crises of the early Cold War era. During 1950-1953, approximately 2.5 to 3 million people were estimated to lose their lives, and a major portion of them were civilians. The biggest difference between this conflict and others is that, unlike many previous wars, which were primarily fought on the battlefields, the Korean War carried the battle across towns, villages, and major cities. This resulted in ordinary people directly being intact with the threat as well as violence, which was opposite of humanitarian laws.

From the point when the war started, civilians were exposed to extreme danger levels. As northern forces began to advance towards the southern region in 1950, and later United States forces pushed north, the line of the front changed quickly and rapidly. Cities like Seoul changed hands many times, and these types of actions led to repeated destruction. While the

war was going on, bombardments, street fighting, and mass massacres damaged residential areas, transportation systems, buildings, and farmland. Air bombardment harmed most of the infrastructure in the North, whereas in the South, ground battles caused a very widespread damage. These problems ended with an issue about food production, medical care, and access to clean/drinking water.

One of the other consequences of the war was mass displacement. Millions of Koreans (generally civilians) left their homes to escape approaching armies, and families often became separated because of the chaotic evacuations. With the armistice being signed in 1953, the newly established Demilitarized Zone formalized the division of the peninsula. This demonstrated that family members located on different sides of the border were permanently divided. Even decades later, brief family reunions have revealed the lasting emotional trauma caused by this separation.

Put aside the physical destruction, the war had an immense psychological impact on people who were either directly or indirectly involved. A gigantic generation of widows and orphans was created, with a considerable number of children who lost one or both parents. Meanwhile, the same number of children were left unprotected without having access to education, and worse, a proper house to which they belonged. Particularly in the following years of the conflict, poverty became common. Keeping these factors in mind, survivors of the war faced high levels of depression and trauma, which resulted in a social collapse over the peninsula. In North and South Korea, the war between these parties shaped national identity, political narratives, and changed the way people looked at security and militarization. In other words, these events created a brand new perspective.

More or less, one of the biggest roles that took place after the war ended was international humanitarian assistance. Numerous recovery campaigns and efforts were coordinated by the *United Nations,* such as providing food, medical care, supplies, and reconstruction aid. Even so, with this scale of destruction, a recovery process that would take decades was inevitable. Eventually, South Korea managed to rebuild itself from scraps and developed into a major global economy. For North Korea, the state remained focused on heavy militarization and formed an isolated, self-dependent economy, with long-term humanitarian consequences.

9.2.　Strategic and Geopolitical Issues

Thinking of the Korean War as just a civil conflict between North and South Korea would cause a misconception, for it was one of the first and most significant geopolitical confrontations of the Cold War. In its deepest, the war acted as a representation of a clash between competing ideological and strategic ideals, which were led by the *United States* and the *Soviet Union*. Understanding this fact, it must be known that this matter cannot be underestimated as a simple rivalry. The Korean peninsula became a substantial testing ground for the emerging global balance of power after World War II.

October 25, 1950 ▶
China attacked UN forces near the Chinese-Korean border, forcing them to retreat south

→ China attack

Actual border

January 1951
Chinese and North Korean units recaptured Seoul and forced UN troops back to the 37th parallel

March 14, 1951
UN forces recaptured Seoul, forcing Chinese troops back. The South Korean capital was captured four times during the course of the war

November 27, 1950
Chinese troops advanced on the X Corps at Chosin Reservoir, causing major casualties — the first major defeat of UN troops

July 27, 1953
The fighting came to an end when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. It called for the creation of the demilitarised zone, the DMZ near the 38th parallel, which serves as a buffer zone between North Korea and South Korea

Due to its geographic position in East Asia where it is located, Korea was strategically very critical and had enormous importance. As the state borders China and lies close to Japan, which is a U.S. ally, holding control of the peninsula would play a role in regional security. The United States sought to prevent the spread of communism in Korea, where it aimed to limit Soviet influence worldwide.

Therefore, when the invasion of South Korea occurred, it was not seen as a regional conflict in Washington but as a potential domino in a larger chain of communist expansion, which was a possible threat.

The conflict drew attention to the strategic importance of alliances and collective formation. A multinational force from several nations seeks to defend South Korea under the banner of the United Nations. This was one of the first major military events authorized by the United Nations and supported the principle that aggression towards one state could trigger a collective response. However, one thing the war pointed out was that as geopolitical rivalries influenced decision-making and escalated tensions, the UN system had limitations.

The entry of China, aside from North Korea in 1950, dramatically expanded the war. When UN forces made their way to the Yalu River near the Chinese border, Beijing saw it as a direct security threat, which led to China being a part of the ongoing war. This sudden situation managed to prevent the collapse of North Korea and extended the duration of the conflict.

After these developments, the war got further internationalized and solidified the Korean War as a proxy war between superpowers and their allies.

Another major geopolitical issue was the risk of nuclear proliferation. In those years, the United States held nuclear weapons in its inventory. Luckily, no nuclear weapon was ultimately deployed, yet the slight possibility of such action made it clear that a confrontation of superpowers carried great danger. With that, the war illustrated how Cold War conflicts could escalate toward global catastrophe. The armistice signed in 1953 did not bring a complete resolution to the underlying geopolitical tensions; what it did was to normalize the division of these two states by the establishment of the Demilitarized Zone. Technically, the Korean Peninsula remains at war after many decades, making it one of the longest unresolved conflicts in modern history. The alliance between the United States and South Korea continues actively, with the presence of American troops in the region and a beneficial partnership. In general view, the Korean War reshaped global geopolitics and balance. It fastened the militarization of U.S. foreign policy, helped to create stronger alliances such as NATO, and boosted the superpower competition in Asia. Additionally, it demonstrated how regional conflicts could quickly turn into critical global crises.

9.3. Legal and Diplomatic Dimensions

The Korean War holds a special place in international legal and diplomatic history. Being one of the first significant armed conflicts after the modern international legal order, following World War 2 was created, it acted as an amazing testing ground. Also, it had the opportunity to test the authority of the newly established United Nations. Therefore, this conflict stands amongst the biggest milestones in global history.

When North Korea forces made a move towards the south, crossing the 38th parallel on 25 June 1950, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) labeled this action as a distress of international peace and security. The Council made a call to member states, inviting them to assist South Korea. At the time, the Soviet Union was absent from the council due to the boycott against it for representing China. This meant other member states would have a much easier job since the USSR couldn't use its right to veto. Such a procedural circumstance created ground for the United Nations to authorize collective military action under the UN charter. Meaning that marked an application which would last up until now: aggression against one member state could lead to a coordinated international response. However, the actual legal condition of the conflict is an ongoing debate. Technically, the war was not declared by the United States, instead described as a "police action" under UN authority. This

matter ended with many question marks upon constitutional and international law, such as war powers, executive authority, and the scope of the UN mandate.

Another top legal problem points out the armistice of 27 July 1953. The agreement itself was not actually a peace treaty, but a military ceasefire. And it was signed by military commanders representing the UN Command, North Korea, and Chinese forces; however, South Korea did not sign the agreement. Consequently, the Korean Peninsula remains theoretically in a state of war. The absence of a formal peace treaty has long-term diplomatic implications, including the continued legal justification for military presence and strict security stands on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

10. Major Parties Involved

10.1. North Korea (DPRK)

The official name, *the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, was at the time led by Kim Il-sung. Supported both politically and militarily by the Soviet Union and later directly by China. North Korea lit the first spark by crossing the 38th parallel on 25 June 1950. The state's ideal was to unify the whole peninsula under the communist system. It was receiving support from the USSR, such as weapons, training, and strategic hints, whereas China later provided an enormous amount of troop reinforcements. The nation faced immense destruction during the war, mainly because of heavy aerial bombardment.

10.2. South Korea (ROK)

The Official name being the *Republic of Korea*, was led by Syngman Rhee. The state was not only militarily but also ideologically the rival of North Korea. At the time when the outbreak of the war occurred, it was militarily weaker and had to rely heavily on international backup. South Korea's main objective was to survive and preserve its government. As time passed, it managed to rebuild its military capacity with the assistance of allied forces and caught up in the power competition. Although South Korea did not sign the 1953 armistice, it is still a central party to the ongoing unresolved status of the conflict.

10.3. United States (USA)

Being one of the biggest superpowers involved, the United States played the leading role in the United Nations Command. Led by President Harry Truman, it managed to successfully enforce the containment policy and prevent the spread of communism in Asia. Held one of the biggest military, an armoury, and economic power, which was crucial for the matter, where all of these were essential. Most of the UN troops were made up of American forces, which made it the backbone of the UN collective military. The war significantly shaped U.S. Cold War strategy, increasing the expenses spared for military and long-term troop presence in East Asia.

10.4. China

China (People's Republic of China) entered the war in late 1950 under the banner of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. Aside from the U.S. and USSR, China was also one of the superpowers at the time and held great military and economic power. China's entry happened after UN forces approached the Yalu River near its border, which alarmed the nation. The presence of hostile forces near its frontier was viewed as a direct security threat. Its involvement greatly affected the fate of the war by preventing the collapse of North Korea and prolonging the conflict. The war solidified China's position as a major regional power.

10.5. Soviet Union (USSR)

The *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics* was another superpower that was involved in the war, with great military power and economy. Although the Soviet Union did not officially deploy large ground forces, it supported North Korea by providing critical military equipment, advisors, and air support. Soviet pilots were highly efficient in air combat while being covert. The Soviet Union's role gives an example of how the Korean War functioned as a proxy war between superpowers, even though neither directly declared war on the other.

10.6. United Kingdom (UK)

The United Kingdom was the second largest party to provide troops after the United States, making it an important role. British forces participated in significant ground operations and naval missions. The UK's stance and involvement showed its commitment to collective security under the United Nations and its strategic alignment with U.S. Cold War policy.
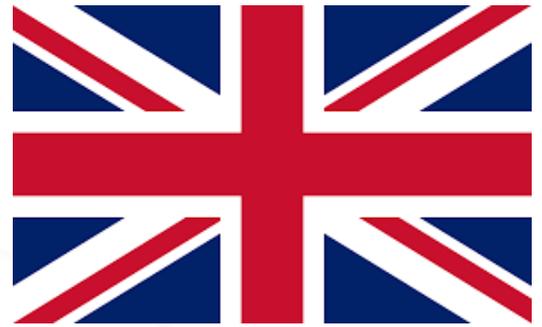
10.7. Türkiye

Turkey was an ally of South Korea and had an important role in the war. It deployed the Turkish Brigade, which managed to gain fame for its combat effectiveness, especially in battles such as Kunuri. By participating in the war, Turkey strengthened its relationship with Western powers and had a positive effect on its later admission into NATO in 1952. The Korean War greatly improved Turkey's diplomatic standing and relationships within the Western alliance system.

10.8. France

France sent the French Battalion under UN Command. Despite not having the same-level military as other involved parties and its smaller size, French forces actively took part in several key engagements. France's involvement demonstrated support for collective security principles and strengthened its position within the Western bloc during the Cold War.

11. Role Of The International Community and Regional Organizations

11.1. United Nations (UN)

The UN played a crucial role in the Korean War by passing some key resolutions, one of which recommended the establishment of the United Nations Command (UNC) in order to

provide military support to South Korea. The UN gathered a multinational military force under its flag with the UNC. Although the UNC was a multinational organization, it was led by the United States. From 1950 to 1953, sixteen countries contributed combat forces and five countries provided medical units to support South Korea under the UNC flag. The UNC conducted several military operations against the KPA and PVA during the war.

11.2. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO was not directly involved in the Korean War, but some of the member states of NATO sent troops to the Korean Peninsula to support South Korea under the UNC. Also, the Korean War impacted NATO's structure and military strategy. NATO established the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), which is the central military headquarters responsible for planning and conducting operations in Europe as a response to the security concerns caused by the Soviet aggression in the Korean War. Also, the member states of NATO increased their defense budgets.

11.3. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC played a critical role in maintaining the international humanitarian law during the Korean War. The ICRC provided humanitarian assistance to the civilians both in the South and the North under the principle of neutrality via establishing hospitals, supplying medicines, surgical equipment, and medical care to wounded soldiers and civilians. Also, the ICRC visited prisoner-of-war camps to control the treatment of prisoners and facilitated communication between prisoners and their families. Besides, during the repatriation of prisoners of war, the ICRC played a humanitarian monitoring role.

12. Key Resolutions

12.1. Immediate Ceasefire and Suspension of Hostilities in the Korean Peninsula

The implementation of an immediate ceasefire will seek to stop active hostilities between North and South Korean military forces and the countries that stand beside them as allies. In the context of the Korean War, the implementation of a ceasefire will seek to protect civilian lives, maintain stability in the front lines, and prevent the escalation of the conflict among the major powers involved in the Korean War, including the United States, China, and the Soviet Union.

Strategically, the implementation of a ceasefire will be effective in preventing the escalation of a larger conflict in the region or globally. From a legal perspective, the implementation of a ceasefire is highly beneficial to support the powers vested in the United Nations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. From a historical perspective, the 1953 Armistice was a ceasefire agreement rather than a peace treaty.

12.2.   The Establishment of Demilitarized Zones (DMZs)

The creation of demilitarized zones is aimed at physically separating two or more forces, and they are supposed to reduce the chances of another conflict. In Korea, the DMZ established after the armistice is arguably the most fortified and significant border in the world.

A DMZ:

- Restricts the movement of troops and heavy weaponry.

- Offers space to prevent any risk of surprise attacks.

- Enables the proper functioning of monitoring mechanisms.

Even though demilitarized zones can successfully separate forces and prevent immediate conflict, there is a possibility of them becoming symbols of division and separation, as is the case in Korea.

12.3.   Formation of a United Nations Commission for Korean Mediation and Observation

The role of a UN commission in Korea will be two-fold: to facilitate diplomacy and to monitor the implementation of any agreements. A UN commission will:

- Monitor the observance of the ceasefire for both sides.

- Investigate any violation of the ceasefire.

- Report to the Security Council with neutral information.

- Make dialogue between conflicting parties easier.

This approach helps to strengthen international legality and transparency. It reflects the broader UN role in peacekeeping and conflict supervision. However, its effectiveness depends on the cooperation of involved states and the geopolitical interests of major powers.

12.4. Emergency Diplomatic Negotiations Between North and South Korea

Direct diplomatic talks between North Korean and South Korean authorities can be a decent effort to resolve the underlying political issue: the legitimacy of the governments on the Korean Peninsula. The negotiations can involve:

- Mutual recognition mechanisms.
- Confidence-building measures.
- Gradual economic or humanitarian cooperation.
- Long-term peace treaty negotiations.

Direct diplomatic talks are necessary because the military impasse cannot resolve the issue of sovereignty in Korea. However, the ideological differences and alliances in the past often made negotiations between North and South Korea challenging.

12.5. Humanitarian Assistance and Civilian Protection Initiative Under UN Oversight

A humanitarian assistance and civilian protection initiative would involve the protection of civilians, medical assistance, food security, and reconstruction support. This is because of the massive destruction and displacement of populations as a result of the war.

Under UN oversight, this initiative would involve the following:

- Ensure the neutrality of humanitarian assistance.
- Ensure the protection of civilians.
- Ensure support for displaced populations and separated families.
- Ensure the strengthening of international humanitarian laws.

Humanitarian assistance is not just about assisting but also about building trust for peace processes.

13. Questions to be Addressed

1. What transpired during Japan's 1945 surrender that resulted in the division of Korea along the 38th Parallel?

2. By 1948, why had the interim occupying zones split into two independent governments?

3. What were the primary ideological and political distinctions between the North Korean and South Korean governments?

4. How did the Soviet Union and the United States influence the early political structures of North and South Korea?

5. Which significant uprisings or internal conflicts took place in South Korea before the war, and why were they significant?

6. What happened on 25 June 1950, and why was it considered a major turning point for international peace and security?

7. What advantages did the North Korean military have at the start of the war, and how did that shape the early battles?

8. How did the fall of Seoul affect South Korea's ability to defend itself in the first weeks of the war?

9. What was the Busan (Pusan) Perimeter, and why was it strategically important for UN/ROK forces?

10. How did the United Nations Security Council respond to the invasion, and what was significant about those early resolutions?

11. What was the United Nations Command (UNC), and why is it important in UN history?

12. What was the purpose of the Incheon Landing, and how did it change the momentum of the war?

13. Why did UN/ROK forces cross the 38th Parallel after recapturing South Korea, and what risks did that create?

14. What warning did China give before entering the war, and why did the United States dismiss it?

15. Why did China intervene, and how did China's entry change the direction of the war?

16. What does it mean when, in the early stages of the Cold War, the Korean War turned into a "proxy war"?

17. Why, despite significant offensives continuing, did the conflict reach a standstill by 1951?

18. How was the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) established?

19. What is the Armistice Agreement's definition of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), and what was its purpose?

20. What effects did the 1953 Armistice have on future security issues, and why did it not completely end the Korean War?

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